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Appl. No.: 09/925,585
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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for generating a survey for a computer system on a network, the method comprising the steps of:

storing a~an HTML formatted survey document on a computer-readable medium of a first computer system, the survey document having questions and answers in a certain format, wherein the questions and answers are for delivery in the survey document over a network to a second computer system and wherein the survey document is for presenting to a user by the second computer system i) ones of the survey document questions and ii) answers from the survey document for selecting on the second computer by the a~user of the second computer, wherein according to the certain format of the survey document, the questions and answers are defined as XML data elements included in the survey document as strings of text surrounded by text markups, including tags describing the data elements and attributes defining associations among the questions and answers, including associations such that ones of the questions branch from ones of the answers; and

storing an HTML formatted document and programming instructions on a computer-readable medium of the first computer system, the programming instructions being written in an object oriented, interpreted, dynamic programming language and the HTML formatted document and programming instructions being for delivery over the network to the second computer system, the programming instructions including:

first instructions for receipt and execution as an applet in a browser of causing the second computer system, wherein the execution of the first instructions as an applet causes the second computer system to parse the data elements from the survey document into data arrays having cross-references defining the associations among questions and answers; , and

second instructions for receipt and execution as an applet in a browser of causing the second computer system, wherein the execution of the second instructions as an applet causes the second computer system to display in a browser on a user interface of the second computer system a first set of one or more of the questions and corresponding, selectable answers and causes the second computer system to then repeatedly select and display additional sets of one or more of the questions and corresponding, selectable answers, wherein the repeated selecting and

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displaying of the additional sets of one or more of the questions and corresponding, selectable answers is by the second computer and not the first computer and is responsive to answers selected by the user on the second computer, ~~certain ones of the questions, including the first one of the questions, and branch to and display on the user interface the second and third ones of the questions, or else not branch to and display the second and third ones of the questions, responsive to an answerselected by the user and received by the second computer system for the first question~~ and wherein the repeated selecting by the second computer system is further responsive to ones of the cross-references of the data arrays arising from the second computer system parsing the data elements from the survey document; and ~~defining the associations among the first, second and third one of the questions.~~

third instructions for receipt and execution as an applet in a browser of the second computer system, wherein the execution of the third instructions as an applet causes the second computer to return survey results to the first computer system as an XML formatted answer response document defining the answers selected by the user as data elements included in the survey document as strings of text surrounded by text markups, including tags, wherein the text markups describe the data elements.

2-3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~2,~~ comprising the step of:

storing a data type definition file on a computer-readable medium of a first computer system, the data type definition file being for delivery over the network to the second computer system, wherein the programming instructions include instructions for causing the second computer system to validate the data elements responsive to the document type definition file.

5. (canceled)

6. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the programming language includes Java.

7. (canceled)

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8. (currently amended) A computer program product for generating a survey for a first computer system on a network, the computer program product comprising:

a an HTML formatted survey document on a computer-readable medium of a first computer system for delivery to the a second computer system on the network, the survey document having questions and answers in a certain format, wherein the questions and answers are for delivery in the survey document over the network and wherein the survey document is for presenting to a user by the second computer system i) ones of the survey document questions and ii) answers from the survey document for selecting on the second computer by a the user of a the second computer, wherein according to the certain format of the survey document, the questions and answers are defined as XML data elements included in the survey document as strings of text surrounded by text markups, including tags describing the data elements and attributes defining associations among the questions and answers, including associations such that ones of the questions branch from ones of the answers; and

programming instructions on a computer-readable medium of the first computer system, the programming instructions being written in an object oriented, interpreted, dynamic programming language, including instructions for delivery to the second computer system on the network, the programming instructions including first instructions for receipt and execution as an applet in a browser of for causing the second computer system, wherein the execution of the first instructions as an applet causes the second computer system to parse the data elements from the survey document into data arrays having cross-references defining the associations among questions and answers, and second instructions for receipt and execution as an applet in a browser of causing the second computer system, wherein the execution of the second instructions as an applet causes the second computer system to display in a browser on a user interface of the second computer system to display in a browser on a user interface of the second computer system a first set of one or more of the questions and corresponding, selectable answers and causes the second computer system to then repeatedly select and display additional sets of one or more of the questions and corresponding, selectable answers, wherein the repeated selecting and displaying of the additional sets of one or more of the questions and corresponding, selectable answers is by the second computer and not the first computer and is responsive to answers

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selected by the user on the second computer, ~~certain ones of the questions, including the first one of the questions, and branch to and display on the user interface the second and third ones of the questions, or else not branch to and display the second and third ones of the questions, responsive to an answer selected by the user and received by the computer system for the first question~~ and wherein the repeated selecting by the second computer system is further responsive to ones of the cross-references of the data arrays arising from the second computer system parsing the data elements from the survey document, and ~~defining the associations among the first, second and third one of the questions.~~ and third instructions for receipt and execution as an applet in a browser of the second computer system, wherein the execution of the third instructions as an applet causes the second computer to return survey results to the first computer system as an XML formatted answer response document defining the answers selected by the user as data elements included in the survey document as strings of text surrounded by text markups, including tags, wherein the text markups describe the data elements.

9-10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim ~~9~~ 8, wherein the programming instructions include instructions for causing the second computer system to validate the data elements responsive to a document type definition file.

12. (canceled)

13. (original) The computer program product of claim 12 wherein the programming language includes Java.

14. (canceled)

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15. (currently amended) A first computer system comprising:

a processor for connecting to a network;

a storage device coupled to the processor, wherein the storage device has a computer-readable medium for storing:

a an HTML formatted survey document on computer-readable medium on a first computer system for delivery to a second computer system on the network, the survey document having questions and answers in a certain format, wherein the questions and answers are for delivery in the survey document over the network and wherein the survey document is for presenting to a user by the second computer system i) ones of the survey document questions and ii) answers from the survey document for selecting on the second computer by a the user of the second computer, wherein according to the certain format of the survey document, the questions and answers are defined as XML data elements included in the survey document as strings of text surrounded by text markups, including tags describing the data elements and attributes defining associations among the questions and answers, including associations such that ones of the questions branch from ones of the answers; and

programming instructions on a computer-readable medium of the first computer system, the programming instructions being written in an object oriented, interpreted, dynamic programming language, including instructions for delivery to the second computer system on the network, the programming instructions including first instructions for receipt and execution as an applet in a browser of causing the second computer system, wherein the execution of the first instructions as an applet causes the second computer system to parse the data elements from the survey document into data arrays having cross-references defining the associations among questions and answers, and second instructions for receipt and execution as an applet in a browser of causing the second computer system, wherein the execution of the second instructions as an applet causes the second computer system to display in a browser on a user interface of the second computer system a first set of one or more of the questions and corresponding, selectable answers and causes the second computer system to then repeatedly select and display additional sets of one or more of the

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questions and corresponding, selectable answers, wherein the repeated selecting and displaying of the additional sets of one or more of the questions and corresponding, selectable answers is by the second computer and not the first computer and is responsive to answers selected by the user on the second computer ~~certain ones of the questions, including the first one of the questions, and branch to and display on the user interface the second and third ones of the questions, or else not branch to and display the second and third ones of the questions, responsive to an answer selected by the user and received by the second computer system for the first question~~ and wherein the repeated selecting by the second computer system is further responsive to ones of the cross-references of the data arrays arising from the second computer system parsing the data elements from the survey document, and ~~responsive to ones of the cross-references defining the associations among the first, second and third one of the questions~~ third instructions for receipt and execution as an applet in a browser of the second computer system, wherein the execution of the third instructions as an applet causes the second computer to return survey results to the first computer system as an XML formatted answer response document defining the answers selected by the user as data elements included in the survey document as strings of text surrounded by text markups, including tags, wherein the text markups describe the data elements.

16-17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) The first computer system of claim ~~17~~ 15, wherein the programming instructions include instructions for causing the second computer system to validate the data elements responsive to a document type definition file.

19. (canceled)

20. (previously presented) The first computer system of claim 19 wherein the programming language includes Java.

21. (canceled)